

Crediting of Corn Meal (Cornmeal) and Corn Flour for Grains/Breads Component

PURPOSE:

This policy updates the crediting of corn meal and corn flour in the grain/bread component.

SCOPE:

Institutions and facilities participating in the National School Lunch Program.

DESCRIPTION:

To be credited as a grains/breads component for Food-Based Menu Planning approaches for all Child Nutrition Programs (including schools, child and adult care, and summer programs), grain products must be enriched or whole-grain, or made from enriched or whole-grain meal and/or flour.

For a number of years, the Child Nutrition Programs allowed corn meal (cornmeal) and corn flour to be counted as a whole grain for crediting grains/breads. This is because the standard of identity for "corn meal" and "corn flour" was interpreted as yielding a whole grain.

On February 17, 2006, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) published a draft guidance entitled *Whole Grain Label Statements* that contained the following statement:

*Degerminated and bolted cornmeals should not be considered whole grain products because germ or bran has been removed during processing. Because the rest of the meal (flour) standards allow removal of some of the hull, these also should not be considered whole grain products.*

This clarification by FDA of the standards of identity for "corn meal" and "corn flour" indicates that these products should no longer be considered as whole grain for Child Nutrition Programs.

**Therefore, beginning July 1, 2008, to be credited toward meeting the meal pattern requirements, corn must be labeled as:**

- 1. "whole corn" (or other "whole" corn designations, such as whole grain corn, whole ground corn, whole cornmeal, whole corn flour, etc.), or**
- 2. "enriched" corn (or other "enriched" corn designations, such as enriched yellow cornmeal, enriched corn flour, enriched corn grits, etc.).**

NSLP participants are encouraged to implement this requirement as soon as possible. After July 1, 2008, meals or snacks containing corn products which do not meet the updated requirements will be disallowed.

SOURCE:

USDA Memo TA 01-2008, Crediting of Corn Meal (Cornmeal) and Corn Flour for Grains/Breads Component, December 11, 2007.